



# District of Columbia Sentencing Commission

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## MINUTES OF FULL COMMISSION MEETING

February 20, 2018

One Judiciary Square, Suite 430S, Washington, DC 20001

### **Voting Members in Attendance:**

Frederick Weisberg

Billy Martin

Milton Lee

Danya Dyson

Molly Gill

Frederick Cooke, Jr.

Katerina Semyonova

David Rosenthal

Julie Samuels

Renata Cooper

### **Non-Voting Members in Attendance:**

Leslie Parson

Charles Allen

### **Guest in Attendance:**

Chief Judge Robert Morin

Kevin Whitfield

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Barbara Tombs-Souvey

Mia Hebb

Mehmet Ergun

Linden Fry

Taylor Tarnalicki

Miatta Sesay

**I.** Chairman Weisberg called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

**II.** Chief Judge Morin's Remarks – Informational Item

D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge, and former Commission Member, Robert Morin delivered some remarks to the Commission. He thanked and congratulated Chairman Weisberg on his tenure as Commission Chairman.

**III.** The minutes from February 20, 2018 were briefly discussed and approved.

**IV.** The Agency Performance Hearing and Mayor's FY 19 Budget Update – Informational Item, Chairman Weisberg and Barbara Tombs-Souvey.

***Agency Performance Hearing and Mayor's FY 19 Budget Update:*** Chairman Weisberg gave a brief overview of the Agency Performance Hearing on February 22, 2018. He noted that the testimony went smoothly and appeared to be well received by Councilman Allen. Ms. Tombs-Souvey gave an update on the Mayor's FY 19 Budget. She stated that the agency received a slight budget increase, as well as an additional \$71,500 to fund any modifications to the Sentencing Guidelines that the Commission may make as a result of recommendations from the Evaluation Study.

Ms. Tombs-Souvey informed the Commission that Gerry Roth has been hired as Project Manager to oversee the MPD Arrest Data Feed Project. She expects that the Commission will issue a Request for Proposal to hire a contractor for the development and implementation of the data feed by the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Tombs Souvey also shared with Commission members that the agency has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the U. S. Bureau of Prisons to receive yearly incarceration data related to D.C. offenders housed in federal facilities. The first data set will be provided to the Commission in the near future.

**V. Proposed Annual Report Review Schedule – Barbara Tombs-Souvey.**

**Annual Report Schedule:** Ms. Tombs-Souvey stated that the 2017 Annual Report draft was distributed to the Commission members March 16, 2018, and will be due back to the staff by March 23, 2018. Following the Commission's review, staff will incorporate member's suggested edits and comments into the document and submit it to the Judge Weisberg for final review and edits.

**VI. Status Report on Sentencing Guideline Survey/Focus Group Project – Informational Item, – Taylor Tarnalicki and Barbara Tombs-Souvey.**

**Update on Sentencing Guideline Project:** Ms. Tarnalicki gave a status update on the Sentencing Guideline Survey/Focus Group Project. She noted that, to date, the Commission had received approximately 65 complete and 69 partial responses to Sentencing Guideline's survey that was distributed. Ms. Tarnalicki stated that the survey response deadline has been extended to March 26, 2018, to allow participants sufficient time to complete the survey. Ms. Tarnalicki also informed the Commission that three research firms are interested in responding to the focus group solicitation, and that the selection process will take approximately two weeks to complete.

Ms. Tombs-Souvey stressed the importance of obtaining accurate and representative survey responses, and kindly reminded Commission members to encourage participation of their affiliate agency.

**VII. Election of New Sentencing Commission Chairman – Action Item – Chairman Weisberg.**

Chairman Judge Weisberg briefly shared the history of the Sentencing Commission and his election as the first Chairman of the Commission. Chairman Weisberg then resigned his position as Commission Chairman; however, he will remain on the Commission as a voting member. Following his resignation, Judge Weisberg nominated Judge Milton C. Lee to succeed him as Chairperson of the Sentencing Commission. Judge Lee accepted the nomination.

The floor opened for other Chairperson nominations or related discussion. No other nominations were made.

**Commission Action:** Vote on New Sentencing Commission Chairman

The Commission voted unanimously (11-0) to elect Judge Lee as the Sentencing Commission Chairman.

Judge Lee assumed the position of Commission Chairman.

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 5:50 p.m.**

NEXT MEETING:

April 10, 2018  
One Judiciary Square (441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW) Suite 430S.